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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 6 Sept. 1951

SUBJECT Dam at Petrokhanski Pass

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1. In 1946 construction of a dam and hydroelectric plant was begun on the Nishava River at Petrokhanski (XF 2210). In 1946 there were about 1,000 Trudovaks and 300 paid laborers working on the project. At the beginning of 1950 there were 800 Trudovaks and 800 paid workers at the project. During the latter part of the year the Trudovaks left and volunteer brigades were expected. In 1949 the dam was near completion, but Soviet engineers later decided that part of the wall was poorly constructed and should be done over. About the same time, the director of the project, Lukov, fled to Yugoslavia with all the plans. In 1949 the construction of the hydroelectric plant had not begun.

2. The dam had a pentagon or hexagon shape (sic) with diagonals about 180 meters in length and eight to ten meters high. the dam had a capacity of 250,000 cubic feet. In March 1950 the foundations of the dam had been constructed and had the following dimensions:

- a. From the bottom of one mountain to the bottom of another--150 meters.
- b. Width along the bed of the river--300 meters.
- c. Depth of foundations--20 to 35 meters.

3. When the dam is completed the walls will be 180 meters high. The length of the top will be 500 to 600 meters. The following equipment was used at the dam:

- a. Four machines which were used to load earth on 60 to 70 wagons.
- b. One steam engine with 20 wagons.
- c. Three excavators, Baker type, 45 tons.
- d. One large water pump.
- e. Fifteen trucks.

4. The workers worked in three shifts (presumably in early 1950); two of the shifts were nine hours and the third was six hours. The project is supposed to be completed in 1953, but the workers estimated that it would not be finished until 1958.

5. There was a dam under construction on the Topolnitsa River west of the village of Muhovo (QE 8935); other dams were being constructed at

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Rositsa, Tasboaz (sic), and Koprinka (sic).

6. In 1949 - 1950 an irrigation ditch was opened about 200 meters east of Belene (XG 8859) for the irrigation of the area of Belene and Svishtov. The bottom of this main ditch was two meters wide, the surface was eight meters wide, and the depth was two meters. The ditch began at Belene, went through the village of Dikov, and ended on the Danube near Svishtov. Many secondary ditches have been opened along the length of the main ditch; the secondary ditches were .5 meters wide at the bottom, 2.4 meters wide at the surface, and .6 meters deep. A pumping station was being constructed east of Belene to pump the water from the Danube into the ditch.

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7. In 1949, 3,000 Trudovaks, 1,000 paid laborers, [redacted] were working on the project. On 25 May 1951 the ditch was completed, and a Trudovak battalion went to Tutrakan (IJ 0899) to complete the irrigation projects there; the areas of Tutrakan, Breslen (XH 8993), Golemo Vranovo (XH 8789) were going to be irrigated. There were 1,200 Trudovaks and 300 volunteers working at Tutrakan.

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